

THE DAILY MAIL

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THURSDAY, JUNE 7, 1917

THE VALLEY RAILWAY STEAL.

The people of New Brunswick have been shocked and disgraced by the revelations made at St. John on Tuesday before Commissioner Stevens, who is, conducting an enquiry into Valley Railway affairs under a Royal Commission. It was established by the evidence of Mr. Thomas Cozzolino, a native of Sunny Italy, who is the head of the Nova Scotia Construction Co., that his concern, before being awarded the contract for the completion of the road, had to promise one-half of the profits to Mr. W. B. Tennant, of St. John, and actually paid him \$100,000 for his influence. Mr. Cozzolino, it must be understood, is not a philanthropist, but a railway contractor and a business man; and he stated in his evidence that he considered it "good business" to get the contract under the stipulated terms. It may have been good business for Mr. Cozzolino and his associates, but even the apologists for the corrupt administration kicked out of office on February 24th will scarcely have the impudence to put forward the claim that it was good business for the over-burdened taxpayers of the province of New Brunswick, whose money was stolen. Under the late government there was rank jobbery in connection with the Valley Railway from the outset, but many people were under the impression that with the retirement of Mr. J. Kidd Flemming from public life the thievery had been stopped and honest business methods had been adopted. The evidence of Mr. Cozzolino makes it clear that the very opposite was the case. The change in the Premiership did not stop the carnival of graft, but seems to have made it worse. Even Mr. Flemming, who accepted 10,000 from the Corbetts and \$2,000 from Kennedy & McDonald for some purpose, will be astonished at his own modesty when he learns that Tennant was able to touch up Mr. Cozzolino and his company to the tune of 100,000 plunks.

The disclosures of boodling made before Commissioner Stevens emphasize the fact that the people of this province made no mistake when on February 24th they bowled the Murray-Baxter government out of office. It also shows that Premier Foster made no mistake when he removed from office the directors of the St. John & Quebec Railway Company, and the engineers who had permitted themselves to become the tools of knavish politicians and middlemen.

Thanks to Commissioner Stevens and the able and energetic government counsel, Mr. F. B. Carvell, M. P., the people have had a glimpse of what Carlisle used to call the "working of Satan's invisible world," and we are thus able to understand in some degree how the late government and its satellites bedevilled and perverted the representative institutions of the province. While evidence and clear proof can be obtained of what has happened in one particular case, the people may rest assured that there are at least ten other cases in which the evidence cannot be brought forward, however strong and well grounded the suspicion may be. The transaction disclosed by Commissioner Stevens and Mr. Carvell may be, after all, only a sort of peak on which the late government stands gibbeted, but a peak below which lies a mountain range of yet undiscovered but well developed reality. The public interests demand a thorough probing of the crooked transactions of the late government, and restitution and punishment for the guilty.

THE SITUATION AT OTTAWA.

The announcement comes from Ottawa that the negotiations which have been going on for the past week between the party leaders for a coalition government, have fallen through, and that the atmosphere will be cleared by an early appeal to the people. The Hon. Bob Rogers, Sir Robert Borden's Minister of Elections, is given as one of the reasons for the failure of negotiations, and of course there are others. Perhaps after all it is better for the country that nothing has resulted from the efforts to effect a compromise. It is rather difficult to see how

the two parties with their many conflicting interests could get together and form an administration which would be satisfactory to the people. The question of enforcing selective conscription is undoubtedly a big one, and it would be well to have a vote of the people upon it. The Borden government has certainly not covered itself with glory on matters pertaining to the war. Leadership has been sadly lacking at Ottawa, and the people are crying out for a better condition of affairs, and it cannot come too soon for the good of the country. The people have every confidence in the wisdom and statesmanship of Sir Wilfrid Laurier, and will undoubtedly place him at the head of the government just as soon as they are given the chance through the medium of the ballot box.

The local opposition organ, which is now posing as the candid friend of the minority party in the Legislature, in commenting on the disclosures of graft made before Commissioner Stevens, states a director on one of the contracting companies of the Valley Railway is a dummy for a member of the Legislature. As the organ was in close touch with certain contractors while the late government was in office, it probably knows whereof it speaks. The identity of the member who is alleged to have voted money into his own pockets is not publicly known, but suspicion rests upon a well known back-bencher who seems to be very sore on Mr. E. S. Carter.

Whatever disposition may have been made of the \$100,000 which Contractor Cozzolino paid W. B. Tennant for his "influence," it is quite evident judging from its frank editorial comment that some of it found its way into the coffers of the Fredericton opposition organ.

Through Our Sieve

June will now proceed with its windings.

What the city needs is a motor truck that can find where the fire is when the alarm is all balled-up.

It should not be anticipated that the cold spring will reduce the crop of June brides.

Children make sweet music in the home until they get old enough to take music lessons.

Vodka again threatens to inundate Russia, and the Central Empires must be highly pleased.

Just now the man who knows beans is more likely to be useful than the chap who discovers comets.

The flying squirrels seen about Parliament Square this season are said to be from stock introduced by that angelic politician, J. K. Flemming.

The man who thinks he has done his duty when he provides a wife with a place to work for her board isn't uncommon.

Tennyson's airy navies battling in the central blue, having been realized, let us hope that the parliament of man and federation of the world will soon follow.

COUNTY COURT ON HORSE CASE

Yesterday afternoon and this morning the trial of the horse case, Davidson vs. Allen, was continued before Judge Wilson in the York County court. Stage Driver Richey followed the plaintiff on the witness stand and his evidence and that of Messrs. Harry McClary, William Davidson and Thomas Davidson, who succeeded him, went to confirm Mr. Davidson's testimony as to the value of the mare sold and the claims for payment as sworn to by the plaintiff. One of the facts elicited in the examination was that the animal sold was being regularly used as a let horse at the defendant's stables. Also that defendant had at first upon plaintiff's mere statement of the mare's value offered him \$75 for her without seeing her.

Defendant's Evidence.

Mr. Allen, the defendant, took the stand shortly before the close of the court yesterday afternoon. He gave a general denial of all the circumstances detailed in the plaintiff's case and especially as to the closing of any agreement of sale at \$100 or at any price, contending that upon plaintiff's representations he told him to send the mare down and he would try her. He admitted, however, that he had made an offer, as plaintiff alleged, of \$75 before he saw the mare, but this the plaintiff did not accept.

Morning Proceedings.

Mr. Allen's examination in chief was continued this morning by his attorney Mr. Peters, to whom he stated that in

HON. MR. ROGERS WILL HAVE A NEW TRIAL

Ottawa, June 6. — Two ministers of the crown—members of the Borden cabinet—publicly indicted for alleged dishonesty, either perpetrated or intended, pleaded "Not guilty" in parliament today.

Hon. Robert Rogers, minister of public works, condemned the judge who condemned him and asked for a new trial. Premier Borden has granted it, and named the judge.

Hon. Albert Seigney, minister of inland revenue and ex-speaker, explained to the house that his intention was "never to keep the effects" which, as speaker, he had removed from the Commons to his Quebec residence. He added that they had been returned in perfect order. The restoration took place after the sergeant-at-arms had invoked the aid of the justice department.

Hon. Mr. Rogers is temporarily out of the cabinet, pending his re-trial. The premier explained that this was at Mr. Rogers' request. Hon. Mr. Seigney, the erstwhile Nationalist, remains in his capacity as adviser to the Crown, so far disciplined only by the sergeant-at-arms.

There was a crowded commons chamber. There was general expectancy of a pronouncement by the premier relieving the political tension and uncertainty of the past two weeks. This was not forthcoming. Instead came apologies for two existing ministers. Something of the still powerful influence of Mr. Rogers on the Conservative rank and file was evidenced by the cheers and desk-pounding that greeted Sir Wilfrid Laurier's quotation of Mr. Rogers' allegation that Mr. Justice Galt was a "grafter" and the renewed applause which accompanied the premier's retort to the Liberal leader that one of the latter's colleagues some time in the past had caustically referred to the findings of a judicial commissioner. When Mr. Rogers, still debonair and smiling, walked from the chamber, several of the Conservative members effusively clapped him on the back.

"Coalition is off," observed a spectator in the gallery, "and there goes one chief reason."

An order-in-council appointed Sir Ezekiel McLeod, chief justice of the supreme court of New Brunswick, and Hon. Justice Louis Teller, of the superior court of Quebec, as a commission to report whether there was any evidence to sustain such findings as are set forth in Commissioner Galt's report reflecting upon Hon. Mr. Rogers and to take such further evidence as they might consider necessary to decide upon their truth or falsity.

The condition in which he received her the mare would not be worth over \$25. Upon cross examination by Mr. Richards as to what she earned in the livery stable he said that this would not exceed \$5 a week.

At the conclusion of his testimony there was a temporary delay pending the expected arrival of another witness from the Lorne Hotel, where negotiations were carried on, but the court not being in a waiting mood, no further testimony was offered upon his behalf.

The court then took a recess and the case will go to the jury this afternoon.

STOCK MARKET

NEW YORK

Beet Sugar.....	95½
C. P. R.....	161
Crucible steel.....	83½
Erie.....	25½
Erie 1st pfd.....	39 1-2
Marine Pfd.....	79½
Union Pac.....	135½
U. S. Steel.....	130½
Air Brake.....	179
Kenn.....	50
Marine Com.....	29
Reading.....	93
Rubber.....	56½
Studebaker.....	81½
Bethlehem.....	141
Wool.....	47½

MONTREAL

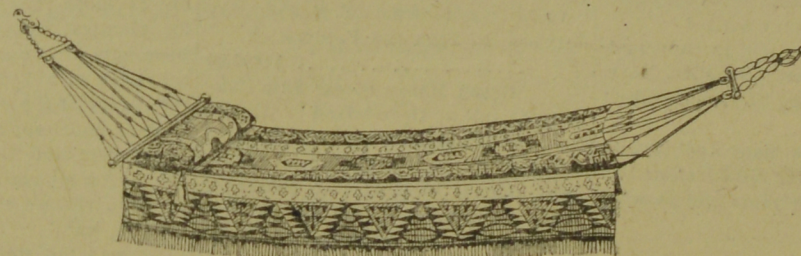
Civic.....	77
Detroit.....	109
Quebec.....	26
Toronto.....	78½
Braz.....	40½
Cement.....	60½
Iron.....	63
Steel Co.....	60
Spanish.....	13½
Shaw.....	122
Can Cottons.....	52 1-2
Laur. Pulp.....	185
Scotia.....	96

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